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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4833rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 September 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Justice and the Rule of Law: the United Nations Role", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council met at Ministerial level on 24 September 2003 to consider 'Justice and the Rule of Law: the United Nations Role'. Ministers expressed their respective views and understandings on, and reaffirmed the vital importance of these issues, recalling the repeated emphasis given to them in the work of the Council, for example in the context of the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in relation to peacekeeping operations and in connection with international criminal justice.

"The statements made on 24 September demonstrated the abundant wealth of relevant experience and expertise that exists within the United Nations system and in the Member States. Ministers considered that it would be appropriate to examine further how to harness and direct this expertise and experience so that it was more readily accessible to the Council, to the wider United Nations membership and to the international community as a whole, so that the lessons and experience of the past could be, as appropriate, learned and built on. The Council welcomed in particular the offer by the Secretary-General to provide a report which could guide and inform further consideration of these matters.

"The Council invites all Members of the United Nations, and other parts of the United Nations system with relevant experience and expertise, to contribute to this process of reflection and analysis on these matters, beginning with the further meeting on this subject which will be convened on 30 September 2003."

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